

4 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Geographic Research Area

FROM: Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT: Relations Between the Geography Division
and the Department of State

1. Prior to December 1947, the predecessor organization of what is now the Geography Division existed as an integral part of the Department of State and worked principally in the fields of map intelligence and territorial studies. In December 1947 the organization and these functions were transferred to CIA. The Department of State retained no map intelligence function, but did retain a responsibility and a capability in the field of territorial studies.

2. From 1947 to August 1957, although no formal agreement existed between CIA and the Department of State with respect to the responsibility for territorial studies and boundary information, there was in practice an effective working understanding between the Office of the Geographer and the Geography Division on this subject. During this period, although the State Department remained the final authority on U.S. policy concerning questions of sovereignty status, territorial waters, boundary disputes, and related problems, the Geography Division was relied upon to a great extent for the accomplishment of necessary research support. In many instances, research was undertaken at the specific request of, and in direct support of the Office of the Geographer. In numerous cases of routine inquiries on territorial problems from U.S. government mapping and charting agencies, the Geography Division supplied the appropriate information directly and informally to the requester -- an arrangement that existed with the knowledge and informal approval of the Office of the Geographer.

3. Another example of Geography Division support to the Department of State during this period was the participation in and partial financial support of the Technical Group on Antarctica, chaired by State. Since 1953, some [REDACTED] of CIA funds have been devoted to the support of this group.

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4. On 13 August 1957 a somewhat more formal agreement was reached between the Geographic Research Area, ORR, and the Special Advisor on Geography, Department of State. The provisions of this agreement, as set forth in Tab A, are those under which the Geography Division is currently operating in its relations with the Special Advisor on Geography. As a result of this agreement, D/GG no longer supplies policy guidance on questions of boundaries and territorial status directly to U.S. government mapping and charting agencies, although it does provide substantive research support for this purpose to the Special Advisor on Geography, as required. Since 1957, D/GG has rendered continuing assistance, on a "spot request" basis, to the Special Advisor, has prepared a major study on civil administrative divisions of the world at his request, and is currently engaged in contributing to a major world-wide Boundary Inventory project being undertaken by his office.

5. In addition to the activity in support of IRC/GE, the Geography Division has also rendered geographic intelligence support to other parts of INR and to the Foreign Service Institute. Within the last year, for example, studies on Arctic Territorial Problems, [REDACTED] have been completed at State Department request, and a number of special lectures have been presented to classes at the Foreign Service Institute.

6. As a rough indicator of the magnitude of D/GG effort in support of the Department of State, it may be noted that during the period 1 September 1959 through 31 August 1960, D/GG expended 1481 professional man hours and 124 clerical man hours on work directly responsive to State Department requests.

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Inclosure: Tab A

(Copy of Memorandum for the Record,
dated 19 August 1957)